NATURAL NEWS

The Field Museum
Exploring
The Earth And Its
People

WEEKLY STAFF NEWSLETTER
September 19, 1997

ALL STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS INVITED!

***Living Together** Week*

September 22-26, 12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.-- Brown Bag Lunch!

The long-awaited and breathlessly-anticipated **Living Together** exhibit is about to open! To give staff and volunteers the opportunity to learn more about the exhibit prior to the public opening, there will be "brown bag" lunches each day the week of September 22-26. We will talk informally with **Alaka Wali** and **Rich Faron** with plenty of time to ask questions. We will also view some of the videos which will be utilized in the exhibit. The "brown bag" schedule will be as follows:

Monday, September 22 -	Education Conference Room
Tuesday, September 23 -	"Noon Balloon" in Zoology Classroom
Wednesday, September 24 -	Developer's Conference Room
Thursday, September 25 -	Webber Resource Center
Friday, September 26 -	Education Conference Room

Living Together opens Sunday, November 8, with a festive weekend celebration including music, dance, and theater performances. "This exhibit is not about objects and it's not about a specific culture," says **Laura Gates,** Vice President of Museum Affairs. "It's about an idea. An idea that can help us better understand ourselves and our neighbors -- the connections between us and what we can learn from each other."

The idea behind the exhibit is this: that throughout history humans have faced similar concerns in life. How we respond to those concerns depends on the environment we live in, our history, and our creativity. **Living Together** invites visitors to explore how humans deal with three universal concerns that connect us all: *home, image* and *community.* The goal is to promote cultural understanding in our increasingly diverse society by concentrating on the connections, rather than the differences between all of us.

"People are fundamentally afraid of diversity," says **Alaka Wali,** exhibit curator and director of the Museum's Center for Cultural Understanding and Change. "Instead of taking advantage of it, they are afraid of it and want to erase it. If we can understand the reasons for cultural differences -- why people do what they do -- then maybe we can get beyond "tolerance" to genuine understanding. That's what this exhibit is all about."

Special Exhibit -- *as if you hadn't heard!*

ARCHAEOPTERYX: The Bird That Rocked the World
October 4-19

Only once. Only in Chicago. Only at The Field Museum. And only for two weeks! The world's oldest known bird fossil, Archaeopteryx, will be on exhibit for the first time in North America October 4-19. Archaeopteryx is one of the most famous fossil animals on earth because it illustrates a transition between major groups of animals, in this case reptiles and birds. Only seven specimens of Archaeopteryx exist in the world. All have been unearthed in the famous Solnhofen limestone quarries of Bavaria, Germany. The one on display at The Field Museum is the most recently discovered, found in 1992. The first Archaeopteryx fossil was a feather, found in 1860. The first specimen, discovered in 1861, was hailed as evidence of a link between dinosaurs and birds and proof of Charles Darwin's theory of evolution. No Archaeopteryx has ever been exhibited outside of Europe. -- from Public Relations

Thank you for all your help!

The Education Department would like to thank the following departments for all their help and cooperation during the three nights of filming for the Educational Video. It would not have been possible without all of you.

Thanks to

Audio Visual
Exhibits
FP&O
Housekeeping
Liz Events
Security
Visitor Services

I would also like to give a personal Thank You to everyone for supporting me during filming -- from providing me with glass cleaner to keeping the west door open until the late hours. This was truly a Museum-wide effort for which I am truly grateful.

Thanks!
Lynetta Brown, Education Department

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

FIELD MUSEUM ACKNOWLEDGED FOR COLLECTION LOAN

The Field Museum's Anthropology Department loaned specimens from its collection to the Cincinnati Art Museum for a special exhibit entitled "Mistress of the House, Mistress of Heaven: Women in Ancient Egypt." The exhibition was the first to focus exclusively on the roles of women at all levels of ancient Egyptian society and was hosted by both the Cincinnati Museum of Art and the Brooklyn Museum of Art. It received an excellent review from Holland Cotter published in the New York Times, and attendance was high in both Cincinnati and Brooklyn. The Cincinnati Art Museum thanked The Field Museum for its contributions in a letter from the Director Barbara Gibbs.

TALES OF GIANT SNAKES PUBLISHED

The Division of Amphibians and Reptiles is pleased to announce the publication of *TALES OF GIANT SNAKES: a Historical Natural History of Anacondas and Pythons*

United Way Days Drawing to a Close...

Dear Fielders:

The Field Museum's United Way Campaign officially ends this Tuesday, September 23, 1997. If you have not turned in your pledge form, please give it to a committee member or drop it off at The Visitors Center on the second floor near The Searle Lounge.

I know we are all anxiously waiting to find out who won the free parking pass (or the equivalent amount of money to be used towards a bus pass or bike maintenance.) We will need to wait until next week's issue of the *Natural News* because of deadlines and jury duty ... the suspense continues for one more week.

If you need any more information on The United Way Crusade of Mercy, or want to express your feelings or concerns, please call me at ext. 378. I am here to assist you.

Sincerely yours,

Annie Crawley
United Way Chairperson

FIELD MUSEUM FAN MAIL

Received in the Bird Division:

> I just got back from a business trip to Chicago and had a chance to visit the Field Museum. I wanted to let you know how much I enjoyed the **North American Birds** and the **Messages from the Wilderness** displays. I was amazed at what a complete collection of birds you had, and the number of interactive displays, such as the comparison of the Adler and Willow flycatcher songs. It was pleasing to me to see the number of people who were not only enjoying the displays, but learning something about birds and the environment.

Congratulations to **Tom Czajkowski,** of the Exhibits Department, and his wife **Dawn** who gave birth to a son, **Edward Michael Czajkowski** born Thursday, July 31 at 1:14 p.m. Eddie weighted in at 7 lbs. 10 oz, and is 20-1/2" tall.

If anyone knows of an unmarked gray, plastic cart, please know that it belongs to the Exhibits Department and it's return would be greatly appreciated. Thank you. -- **Martina** (x240)

FACILITY PLANNING AND OPERATIONS

"We Work Better Together"

Facility Planning and Operations will be replacing carpet throughout the ground floor in various locations during the months of October, November and December. The contractor will be working after the Museum closes. This is a part of the floor care and maintenance program for the building. If you have any concerns regarding the date, time and location of this work, you may consult the bulletin board in the Facility Planning and Operations Office where this information will be posted, or you may call **Ernst** (x228) for more information. Thank you.

ALARMS MAY SOUND!

Mid West Fire Protection will test the fire pump in The Field Museum. They will start at 6:00 a.m. and will continue to about 9:00 a.m. on Monday, September 22, 1997. Alarms may sound at various times throughout the building. The fire pump will be run and water discharged into the west lot at 8:00 a.m. Questions? Call **Earl** (x222).

CTA SERVICE IMPROVEMENT-- #127 Bus to come to Museum

The CTA Board approved a service change to provide commuter hour service to the Museum Campus from the Union and Northwestern stations. Beginning on October 6, 1997 the #127 bus will leave the Northwestern station (on the Washington Street side) every ten to fifteen minutes between the hours of 6:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m., and will stop at all of the bus stops on the Museum Campus. In the afternoon the service will begin at 3:30 p.m. and continue to approximately 6:15 p.m. to return people to the Union and Northwestern stations, stopping on Madison Street. We are quite pleased with this service improvement and hope that a sufficient number of employees from the Museum Campus will utilize this service to justify its continuation throughout the year. An exact schedule of the #127 bus will be published shortly.

Correction: The next Docket meeting is September 29. Last week's *Natural News* mistakenly stated the next Docket meeting as being on September 19.

ATTENTION INTERNS! Would you like to have coffee with the President? **John McCarter** will be hosting a series of small gatherings (fortified by coffee and soft drinks) to get to know Field Museum interns. If you would like to be included, please call **Carolyn Klyce** (x642).

GAY AND LESBIAN POTLUCK: The next gay and lesbian potluck will be on Friday, September 26 fro 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m. We will gather on the east side of the Museum, on the grass just below the east terrace. Please bring a dish to share and a drink. If its rainy or cold we will meet in Picnic in the Field. All are welcome. For more information call **Steve** (x336) or **Robin** (x245).

by Field Associate **John Murphy** (Zoology) and Robert Henderson. This attractive 231 page volume, which includes numerous illustrations, was published by Krieger Publishing Company of Malabar, Florida. John has been a Field Associate in the Zoology Department since 1988, and much of the preparation of this book took place in the laboratories of the Division and in our Karl P. Schmidt Memorial Library. John has been active in other aspects of the Field Museum's programs including field work with Curator **Harold Voris** (Amphibians and Reptiles) in Borneo in 1989 and in Thailand in 1997, and with our summer internship programs for minority high school students.

FIALKOWSKI ATTENDS CONFERENCE IN VANCOUVER

The 26th Annual Conference of the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) was held in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada this past August 15-19. **Carol Fialkowski** co-hosted a presentation with Deb Chapman from the Chicago Botanic Garden and Sue Barro from the U.S. Forest Service titled "How Do You Educate 8-million People About Urban Diversity?" Their presentation explained what Chicago Wilderness is and how and why it got started. Carol also helped organize and present another workshop, "NAAEE: How Are We Doing? Comparing our EE Professional Development Efforts in Urban School Systems with the National Science Education Standards" in collaboration with Karen Hollweg from NAAEE and Rodger Bybee and Partic Legro from the National Academy of Sciences. This second workshop explained the National Research Council's Teaching, Professional Development and Program and Assessment Standards.

NOON BALLOON

The Noon Balloon presentation for Tuesday, September 16, 1997 was delivered by **Janet Voight,** Associate Curator, Division of Invertebrates, Department of Zoology, Field Museum. Janet described her research on taxa associated with deep sea hydrothermal vents. Her initial discussion of the sites and how data are obtained included video documentation of two different sites. Certain organisms found at the vents, such as vast anaerobic bacterial colonies, as the primary producers, and huge tube worms and clams, are thought to be endemic to vents. Other taxa, such as galatherid crabs, spider crabs, zoarchid fishes and octopods have been variously considered as either opportunists or specialists. To distinguish between these categories, Janet developed several biological criteria, and compared two vent communities in the eastern pacific rise. Taxa at the northern site, off the coast of Canada, comprise only five species, and only one of these met the criteria of being a true specialist or vent endemic. However, each of the twelve species found at the southern site, off the coast of Central America, met the endemicity criteria. Janet interpreted this strong difference in community structure to be related to differences in the rate of sea floor spreading between the two sites. The site with a single endemic predator has a low spreading rate, resulting in quite isolated vent communities. The site with twelve endemics has a higher floor spreading rate and vent sites are in greater proximity to each other. Although a given vent site is considered ephemeral, continuity through time and hence a greater possibility of specializations emerging, would be favored in nearly connected sites versus isolated sites.

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS OF THE PAWNEE EARTH LODGE AND THE WEBBER RESOURCE CENTER FOR NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURES

On September 13, sixty Pawnee tribe members came in from Oklahoma to participate in the 20th anniversary of the Pawnee Earth Lodge exhibit and the 10th anniversary of the Webber Resource Center for Native American Cultures. At 5:00 p.m., a formal celebration was held in the Webber Resource Center. **Florence Dunham** sang an opening prayer in Mohawk. The Pawnee were then welcomed by the following Chicago Native American dignitaries: **Faith Smith,** Chippewa, President of NAES College and Member of Field Museum Board of Trustees; **Sharon Skolnick,** Fort Sill Apache, Executive Director of the American Indian Center; **George Star Bresette,** Ojibwa, Chicago Anawin Center; and **Jean LaTraille,** Oneida, poet. Accepting the welcome were **William Howell,** Head Chief of the Pawnee Nasharo Council; **Eddie Epplar,** Pawnee Skidi Band Chief; **Elizabeth Blackowl,** Pawnee Tribal Business Council Vice President; **Merton Moore,** Pawnee Tribal Business Council Member; and **Ramona Osborne,** daughter of Sam Osborne. In 1977, the Pawnee Earth Lodge was dedicated in memory of her father, **Sam Osborne. Nancy Evans Matthews,** project developer of the Webber Resource Center, gave a tribute to Field Museum's past President, **Lee Webber.** The Webber Resource Center for Native Cultures of the Americas was named in memory of Lee Webber. Other speakers were **Joan Webber,** and **Mary Ann Bloom,** coordinator of the Pawnee Earth Lodge exhibit.

The Pawnee Earth Lodge and Webber Resource Center volunteers hosted a huge anniversary feast. The evening ended with many Pawnee sleeping the night inside the Earth Lodge.

These anniversaries were heartwarming celebrations, a time to share memories of the past twenty years, renew friendships and build new ones.

Mary Ann Bloom

"Taste of the Field" -- Friday, October 10 -- Pay Day! -- 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

We need participants! Either reserve table space by calling **Elaine** (x338)
OR -- Bring something on the 10th and we'll make space!

$1:00 tickets will be sold (Portions should be priced in whole dollars.)

GOAL: $350 -- half of the Field Museum staff's annual cookbook income.
(We'll do the other half in February.)

Wanted -- Four tickets to the September 25 Stones concert.
Please call **Mary Anne Rogers** (x272).

The *Natural News* is edited by **Carolyn Klyce** in the President's Office. The deadline for all submissions -- in WordPerfect on floppy disk or via email to klyce@fmppr.fmnh.org -- is Tuesday at noon. Printed on recycled paper.